

**d. Eckstein and Babbitt's May 17 Meeting**

That Wednesday, May 17, after Eckstein, Havenick and Goff had completed their meetings with their clients and Duffy and Skibine, *see* Section II.F.3., *supra*, Eckstein called Babbitt's office and arranged to meet with the Secretary. Eckstein then visited Babbitt in the Secretary's main office at Interior. Eckstein came to the meeting prepared for a substantive discussion of the Hudson matter and, after some social pleasantries, he provided the Secretary a briefing book he had prepared on the matter, and set out on a review of the application's background and status.<sup>438</sup> Eckstein believes this was the longest discussion between the two men about Hudson.

As he had during their initial phone conversation, Secretary Babbitt asked Eckstein about Gov. Thompson's position on the application. Prepared for that issue this time, Eckstein pointed out to him a news clipping about the Governor's statements which showed that Thompson had taken various positions on the issue. Eckstein also stressed that the compacts already in place between the Wisconsin tribes and the state of Wisconsin specifically anticipated and permitted certain levels of off-reservation gaming, which the applicant tribes would not exceed. For his part, Babbitt pointed to the high level of opposition to the application from members of Congress, neighboring towns, and the Minnesota and Wisconsin tribes, and said that trying to put this casino in Hudson was like an out-of-state tribe trying to put a casino in downtown Phoenix. Eckstein replied by noting that the Hudson site was within the aboriginal area of the applicant

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<sup>438</sup>Eckstein had prepared an identical notebook for Duffy, and provided it to Duffy during their meeting earlier on May 17. Although Eckstein recalls that he left copies behind with both Duffy and Babbitt, the DOI administrative record of the Hudson decision does not contain either binder of materials, and DOI did not produce them in response to OIC subpoenas.